

# BACKGROUND

The **Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site** comprises 661 acres in northwest Washington, D.C. This is largely a residential area; however, Dalecarlia Woods is located on the western edge, and a large portion of the site is occupied by American University. During World War I, the U.S. Government established the American University Experiment Station to investigate the testing, production, and effects of noxious gases, antidotes and protective masks. These experimental activities were conducted on university property and in the open area which eventually became the Spring Valley neighborhood. For these reasons unexploded ordnance and/or chemical weapons may be encountered with in the Spring Valley neighborhood.

Since 1993, the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** has been conducting investigations, removal actions, health studies, soil sampling, a pilot study, and evaluations of long-term cleanup remedies. The final cleanup for the site began in 2018 and is expected to conclude in 2023.

Weathering may make munitions, which may be on the surface, buried, or whole or in parts, difficult to recognize. **Even old munitions can still kill.** Residents and others should never touch, move, or disturb anything encountered that may be a munition or part of one. All munitions should be considered dangerous, regardless of how long they have been in the environment or how frequently they have been handled.

Help **protect yourself, your family, and your community** by learning and following the 3Rs of Explosives Safety.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A  
MUNITION **CALL 911**

## LEARN MORE

For additional information regarding the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District Corporate Communication Office or visit our website.



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<https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Spring-Valley/>



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Baltimore District

# Spring Valley

## Formerly Used Defense Site

WASHINGTON, D.C.



## 3Rs SAFETY GUIDE



**R**ECOGNIZE



**R**ETREAT



**R**EPORT

Help **protect yourself, your family, and your community** by learning and following the 3Rs of Explosives Safety.



**Recognize when you may have encountered a munition**



**Do not touch, move or disturb it. Carefully leave the area.**



**Notify the local police. Call 911.**

## **R**ECOGNIZE

Recognizing when you may have encountered a munition is the most important step in reducing the risk of injury or death. Munitions may be encountered during residential construction projects. Munitions may be easy or hard to identify. Many areas, surfaces and utensils easily attract germs and bacteria when they are not cleaned properly and regularly.



**Top left: 75 mm Projectile**  
**Bottom left: 3 in. Stokes Mortar**  
**Right: Livens Projectile**

Munitions come in many sizes, shapes and colors. Some may look like bullets or bombs while others look like pipes, small cans or even a car muffler. Whether whole or in parts, new or old, shiny or rusty, munitions can still explode. The easiest way to avoid injury or death is to follow the 3Rs.

## **R**ETREAT

Avoid death or injury by recognizing that you may have encountered a munition and promptly retreating from the area.

If you encounter what you believe is a munition, do not touch, move or disturb it. Instead, immediately and carefully leave the area by retracing your steps—going out the way you entered.

Once safely away from the munition, mark the location or path (e.g., with a piece of clothing) so munitions response personnel can find the munition.

### **To avoid the risk of injury or death:**

- Never move, touch or disturb a munition or suspect munition
- Be aware that munitions do not become safer with age, in fact they may become more dangerous
- Don't be tempted to take or keep a munition as a souvenir
- Notify contractors working in your yard that munitions may be encountered and share the 3Rs information

## **R**EPORT

Protect yourself, your family, friends, community, and workers/contractors by immediately reporting munitions or suspected munitions to the police.

Help us by providing as much information as possible about what you saw and where you saw it. This will help the police and military or civilian explosive ordnance disposal personnel find, evaluate and address the situation.

### **If you believe you may have encountered a munition, call the police and report:**

- The area where you encountered it.
- Its general description
- do not approach it
- do not touch, move or disturb it.

### **When possible, provide:**

- Its estimated size
- Its shape
- Any visible markings, including coloring